

**THE CATHOLICS OF
SCOTLAND,
PP. 214-427**

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CAP. XX.

MR. HAY'S SUCCESS AS A PREACHER—DEATH OF BISHOP SMITH, AGED 84, IN 1769—MR. HAY, PROCURATOR—RESIDES AT EDINBURGH—SUCCEEDED AT PRES-HOME BY MR. JOHN GEDDES—MR. HAY, COADJUTOR—DEATH OF THE REV. JOHN GODSMAN—REPUTED A SAINT AND MUCH LAMENTED—DESTITUTION OF THE MISSION—EFFORTS FOR ITS RELIEF—LIBER-ALITY OF MR. CONSTABLE—£1000 FROM ROBERTUS JACOBUS THROUGH BISHOP CHALLONER—BISHOP HAY AND REV. J. GEDDES STRIVE TO HAVE CATH-OLIC PUBLICATIONS—"JOHNNY PETERSON"—SCALAN A COLLEGE IN SPAIN—FRUITLESS FOR A TIME—REV. J. GEDDES, DELEGATE—HIS SUCCESS—GENER-OSITY OF SPANISH AMBASSADOR—COLLEGE TRANS-FERRED TO VALLADOLID—MR. GEDDES TEN YEARS RECTOR—PERSECUTION POWERLESS—CONVERSIONS IN ALL CLASSES OF SOCIETY—BISHOP HAY AND SCALAN—FIRST MENTION OF BISHOP RONALD M'DONALD—THE BOISDALE PERSECUTION—LEADS TO IMPORTANT EVENTS—HARD LAIRDS BROUGHT TO REASON.

Mr. Hay highly appreciated the importance of good preaching ; and he applied with great judgment

and industry to the work of acquiring the art of extemporaneous preaching, which he believed to be the most effective. His studies were not in vain; and we have it on the authority of his best biographers that as a preacher he became very popular. Protestants even took delight in hearing him. It is related that on occasion of one of his journeys through Buchan he stayed over a Sunday and preached at a place called Bythe. There were many Protestants among his hearers; and it was observed that they were moved to tears, and were heard to say to one another as they came out: "If he preached here always, we would never go anywhere else." Such impressions could not be too often produced, especially in such times as those in which the lot of Mr. Hay and his brethren was cast.

Soon after the death of Bishop Smith, at the advanced age of eighty-four, in the year 1769, Mr. Hay was appointed Procurator for the mission of Scotland; and was, in consequence, obliged to leave his congregation at Preshome, in whose cause he had laboured so well and so successfully, and take up his residence at Edinburgh, his native city. He was succeeded in his pastoral charge of Rathven by Mr. John Geddes, who, such was the importance of this mission, was recalled from the presidency of Scalau, and replaced there by a priest recently ordained at

Rome, and who had been for a short time prefect of studies at Douai. Mr. Hay, notwithstanding the laborious nature of his new charge, which he owed to his great ability and experience in business, was not exempt from missionary duty, for which there was a large field at Edinburgh.

Another year, and another, and greater dignity fell to the share of Mr. Hay. It is not to be wondered at that Bishop Grant, now Vicar Apostolic, who had been so often and so severely tried by illness, should seek the aid of a coadjutor. With the consent of both the Highland bishops and of the whole clerical body in the Lowlands, he proposed Mr. Hay. The proposal at once received the sanction of the Holy See. No voice was raised against the appointment, except that of Mr. Hay himself. His unwillingness to accept the dignity and his dread of its responsibilities may be learned from his letters, on the occasion, to Abbate Grant and Cardinal Castelli. The consecration could not well take place till summer, when travelling is less difficult. Danger of publicity must also be avoided, such was still the state of feeling in the country regarding Catholics. Edinburgh could not be thought of, nor could Preshome, where anything concerning Mr. Hay would spread with all the rapidity of rumour. Scalan, therefore, was determined on, as being so much more

retired than any other place. Thither, accordingly, the Bishops proceeded, and on Trinity Sunday, May 21st, 1769, Mr. Hay was consecrated, under the title of Bishop of Daulis, by Bishop Grant of the Lowland Vicariate, who was assisted by the venerable Bishop Hugh Macdonald, of the Highlands, and his coadjutor, Bishop John Macdonald.

The same year the Rev. John Godsmen was called from his earthly labours. His best eulogium is the universal mourning which his death occasioned, and the opinion, unanimously expressed, that a real saint had passed from earth to heaven.

At the time of Bishop Hay's accession to the coadjutorship, the Scotch mission appears to have been in a state of great destitution. There was a great want everywhere, and even at Edinburgh, of suitable vestments and decent altar furniture. Even cheap books of instruction, that were so necessary for the people, could not be procured; and the clergy had no adequate means of subsistence, but were obliged to change from house to house, as circumstances might direct. An appeal for aid to the Catholics of England, through Mr. Constable, of Evingham, a warm friend of religion, was thought of; and Bishop Hay engaged the good services of the Dowager Countess of Traquair to induce Mr. Constable to lay the case of the mission before the

Catholics of England. Lady Traquair requested the Bishop to prepare a memorial, representing in plain terms the manifold wants of the mission. This was done, and both the Dowager Countess and Mr. Constable were highly pleased with the Bishop's statement. They resolved to lay it before Bishop Challoner; and, relying on his good will in the matter, asked him to give his opinion whether application should be made to the English Catholics generally, or that there should only be solicitation among private friends. It fell to Bishop Hay, the immediate departure of Lady Traquair and Mr. Constable not admitting of time to consult the other Bishops, to present the memorial to Bishop Challoner, in the name of his colleagues, stating at the same time, the difficulty, or rather the impossibility, at the time, of obtaining any aid from Rome, and suggesting that Divine Providence had, perhaps, reserved it for the English nation and for Bishop Challoner in particular, as the crown of his former good offices, to be the happy instrument of bestowing so great a benefit on the Catholics of Scotland. The reply to this appeal was very friendly, but, owing to circumstances, not calculated to afford any immediate encouragement. There were two public collections in progress at the time. "As to particular contributions," said Bishop Challoner, "I doubt not but some, if properly applied

to, might be willing to assist you. I shall make some trial among my friends." This utterance was a sufficient authorization for Lady Traquair and Mr. Constable to commence their mission of charity. Not long afterwards the latter sent £100 to Bishop Hay as a contribution from himself. When Bishop Hay was writing to inform Bishop Grant of the above particulars, he received another letter, in which Bishop Challoner writes, with evident pleasure; "Honoured sir, admire and adore the goodness of God. Since I wrote to you, I was visited by a person of great honour and virtue, to whom I showed your memorial, upon the perusal of which he proposed to me the giving you, for the necessities of your mission, the sum of £1,000, with an eye to your present relief, and the procuring the prayers of your missionaries for the repose of the soul of his kinsman deceased, for whom he had destined the money." Reference to the current directory and Ordo for Scotland shows that Mass is still celebrated by all the clergy for this generous benefactor. (Pro Roberto Jacobo.) Bishop Grant addressed a letter of thanks to the friendly English Bishop for his goodness. He replied in writing to Bishop Hay: "My best thanks to that worthy gentleman. His prayers I thankfully accept of; but, as to the rest, the benefit you lately received is owing to a particular providence of our merciful Lord. To Him alone be all the glory."

Bishop Hay, in addition to his episcopal functions and duties as a missionary pastor, was much occupied in providing for the security of the mission funds and, at the same time, with the settlement of the late Bishop Smith's affairs. He was also busy as a publisher. He contemplated printing ten or twelve thousand copies of a catechism. It would appear that the failure of the Catholic bookseller, Mr. Meighan, of London, interfered with this undertaking; for the Bishop complains that it caused great confusion and stagnation of trade among Catholic booksellers. The Rev. John Geddes, now at Preshome, made similar efforts; and even expressed to the Bishop his conviction that he ought to use some of the public money in printing books for the common people, such great importance did he attach to the gratuitous distribution of shorter catechisms and manuals of devotion.

Bishop Hay added to his other employments that of preparing ecclesiastical students for ordination. He taught a promising youth whom, in his correspondence, he calls *Johnny Paterson*, how to read Theology, and, in due course, had him ordained priest, and then set over the seminary and congregation at Scalan.

Considering that the spirit of persecution, although somewhat quiescent, was far from dead, it was